



New Jersey Division on Women

Established by statute in 1974, the New Jersey Division on Women (DOW), housed in the Department of Community Affairs (DCA), serves as New Jersey's central agency for the coordination of programs and services for women. DOW provides leadership in the formulation of public policy and in the development, coordination and evaluation of programs and services for women.

The Office on the Prevention of Violence Against Women

The Office on the Prevention of Violence Against Women (OPVAW), located within the DOW, was created in 1992 by Executive Order No. 61. The OPVAW provides legislative analysis, public education, grant programs, and policy and program development on issues of violence against women, including domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and sexual harassment. The Office also houses the DOW Rape Care Program, which oversees each county's Rape Care Center.



Acknowledgements

Brochure written by:

Erica Honeycutt, Rape Care Program Intern

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Department of Community Affairs

For additional copies, contact:

NJ Department of Community Affairs
Division on Women - Rape Care Program
101 South Broad Street - PO Box 801
Trenton, NJ 08625-0801
Phone: (609) 292-8840
E-mail: www.dow@dca.state.nj.us
Web site: www.nj.gov/dca/dow



James E. McGreevey
Governor



Susan Bass Levin
Commissioner

State And National Resources

- NJ Rape Care Centers -

Atlantic County	800-286-4184
Bergen County	201-487-2227
Burlington County	856-234-8888
Camden County	866-295-7378
Cape May County	609-522-6489
Cumberland County	856-455-5555
Essex County	877-733-2273
Gloucester County	866-295-7378
Hudson County	201-795-5757
Hunterdon County	888-988-4033
Mercer County	609-394-9000
Middlesex County	877-665-7273
Monmouth County	888-264-7273
Morris County	973-829-0587
Ocean County	609-494-1090
Passaic County	973-881-1450
Salem County	856-935-6655
Somerset County	908-526-7444
Sussex County	973-875-1211
Union County	908-233-7273
Warren County	866-623-7233

New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NJCASA)

1-800-601-7200

www.njcasa.org

RAINN

(Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network)

1-800-656-HOPE

www.rainn.org



A Guide to Rape Care Services in New Jersey



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**Comments from
Governor James E. McGreevey
and
Commissioner Susan Bass Levin**

The statistics are staggering. A sexual assault happens every 90 seconds in our country, and one in three women will become victims.

Knowing what a serious issue sexual assault is for all of us, New Jersey has developed some of the most comprehensive Rape Care Centers in the country. In fact, through the New Jersey Division on Women's Rape Care Program, we provide individual Rape Care Centers in every one of New Jersey's 21 counties. At each site, rape care advocates provide much-needed support to those who become victims of sexual assault.

Sexual assault victims need to know that they are not alone. The free and confidential services of the Rape Care Centers are available regardless of when the sexual assault occurs or whether or not the victim makes a police report.

This brochure outlines facts about sexual assault and provides information about the state Rape Care Program housed in the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs' Division on Women. Please read this brochure carefully and share it with others.

New Jersey offers a wide range of support services to victims during their time of need. If you or someone you know is a victim of sexual assault, please contact any of our hotlines or County Rape Care Centers.

With all good wishes,


James E. McGreevey
Governor


Susan Bass Levin
Commissioner

The DOW's Rape Care Program

The mission of the Rape Care Program (RCP) is to address the issue of sexual violence from a victim-centered perspective. The RCP administers and monitors state and federal funds for victims of sexual assault, in addition to providing support and technical assistance to Rape Care Centers in all 21 New Jersey counties. RCP also funds rape prevention and education initiatives in a proactive effort to stop sexual violence before it begins.

RCP collaborates with governmental and non-governmental agencies on a federal, state and county level regarding policy development and implementation in an effort to end sexual violence and ensure compassionate treatment of all sexual assault victims. The RCP serves to provide support and technical assistance, and to act as the voice of sexual assault victims and rape care advocates to ensure a victim-centered approach. RCP partners include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, the Attorney General's Office, the Division of Criminal Justice, New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NJCASA), county Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Advisory Boards, all county Rape Care Centers, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) programs, and Rutgers University.



The Need for Services

Sexual violence is epidemic in the United States and New Jersey.

- A sexual assault occurs every 90 seconds in the United States (RAINN, 2000).
- One in three women will be victims of sexual assault in the United States (RAINN, 2003).
- Sexual assaults are one of the most underreported crimes in the United States – only 16 percent of all sexual assaults are reported to law enforcement (Rape in America: A Report to the Nation, 1992).
- While the New Jersey Uniform Crime Report from 2002 indicates that 1,348 sexual assaults were reported to law enforcement in New Jersey during that year, Rape Care Centers funded by the DOW served 3,831 primary victims and 1,486 secondary victims during that same year – over three times the number indicated in the 2002 New Jersey Uniform Crime Report.
- In 2002, Rape Care Centers funded by the DOW answered 21,493 hotline calls, accompanied victims through 1,957 medical and legal proceedings, and provided 11,246 individual counseling sessions.

Survivors of sexual assault experience emotional, physical and psychological trauma, including:

- Depression
- Nightmares
- Sleeping and eating disorders
- Anxiety
- Chronic pain
- Rape Trauma Syndrome or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, which both affect the quality of victims' daily lives for months or even years
- Health issues such as unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and additional physical injuries

Rape Care Program Grantees

Rape Care Centers funded by RCP provide essential and valuable services to victims of sexual violence and their significant others. Survivors can access services at any time, regardless of when the sexual violence occurred or whether the survivor reported the sexual assault to law enforcement. Services available in each county include:

- 24-hour hotline and crisis intervention
- 24-hour accompaniment to hospitals, police stations, and court proceedings
- Individual and group counseling for survivors and their families and partners
- Information and referrals for additional services

In addition, all county Rape Care Centers offer:

- Presentations to school, college and university students
- Community awareness and educational programs
- Training for professionals who interact with victims of sexual assault

